Gateway

National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior

Gateway National Recreation Area
New Jersey / New York

Visitor Programs and Events Spring 2015

Staten Island, New York

The National Park Service Centennial

The concept of national parks originated in the United States, and the first national park was Yellowstone, created by Ulysses S. Grant in 1872. The National Park Service (NPS) as a federal agency was created by an act of Congress in 1916, so the launch leading up to the century mark begins. The Centennial provides an opportunity to reintroduce the National Park Service to all Americans and expand their understanding of who we are and how we affect their lives.

The NPS will connect with future generations by telling the stories of what we do and how it connects with visitors. Focusing on the future of the NPS and the public we serve honors the success of our past as we continue to protect and preserve for future generations. The contributions of NPS employees, parks and programs will be celebrated to ignite the passion of the NPS in order to carry our stewardship into the next generation. But you should know that the most important part of this celebration is you – our visitor– and the reason that the NPS exists.

The major Centennial Goal is to connect with and create the next generation of park visitors, supporters and advocates. One of the centennial initiatives is "Find Your Park," so you can connect with, visit and support your local park. Note that this is "find *your* park" not find your *national* park, and *your* park may be an historic site. We want people to connect with their local park, whether city, state, national and get involved.

"Battery Weed and Skyline" was entered in the 2014 photo contest by Jared Kofsky.

Find Your Park and Tell Us with Photos

Please Find Your Park, and tell us about it by entering the Gateway Photo Contest that will be held this summer. Last year the theme was *tell a story with a picture*, and the photos had to be of Gateway, but this year we are opening the contest to photos of all NYC area parks, whether city, state or national. So the theme for this year will be *"Tell us about your park."*

We want pictures that show your park in context of its setting and demonstrate, people, nature, communities against the backdrop of NYC metropolitan area.

We will be issuing a special centennial edition of this guide in April so stay tuned, so you can find out what is happening, and how you can be a part of this celebration. Contest details will be forthcoming. We want every one of you to be a part of the NPS Centennial Celebration.

***Do you receive email notifications** of Gateway's programs and events? If you are not on our mailing list and would like to be, please send a message to Charles_Markis@nps.gov, with 'program guide' in the subject line and we will add you.*

The ♥ symbol denotes a hike or walk of moderate activity. Improve your health, as you enjoy your park .

Celebrate the Centennial of the National Park Service by attending some of our special events. For example the Celebrate National Park Week and the Centennial Event slated for April 26 at the Fort Wadsworth Overlook. See below for full details.

Programs March

Lunchtime Walk
Mind and Body Series

Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center
Wednesday, March 11
Noon-1 PM.
Take a 2 mile walk along the loop, at the Overlook and past Battery Weed beginning with the Yoga Sun Salutation as our warm-up. ♥ 2 miles
Bring water and binoculars.. Call 718-351-4655 for more information.

Lunchtime Walk
Mind and Body Series

Wednesday, March 25,
Noon-1 PM.
Take a 2 mile walk along the loop, at the Overlook and past Battery Weed beginning with the Yoga Sun Salutation as our warm-up. ♥ 2 miles Bring water and binoculars.. Call 718-351-4655 for more information.

APRIL

New Yorkers in the Civil War

Fort Wadsworth Overlook
Sunday, April 19
1:30PM-2:30PM
Learn the roles of New Yorkers such as Beecher, Stowe, Tubman, Wadsworth, and Weed before, during and after the conflict that ended 150 years ago this month. 718-338-3799 for reservations.

Earth Day
Celebrate the 45th Anniversary

Fort Wadsworth Beach
Wednesday, April 22,
10:00am-12:00 pm
Help clean Fort Wadsworth Beach, bring water and sturdy shoes. Call 718- 987-6790 for more information. ♥ 2 miles.

Star Gazing
Amateur Astronomers Association of New York

Great Kills Park-parking lot A
Saturday, April 25, 8:00-11:00 PM
The Staten Island Chapter of the Amateur Astronomer's Association hosts public stargazing at the main parking area.

Earth Day Cleanup
Fort Wadsworth Beach

Along USS North Carolina Road – Staten Island
Sunday, April 26
10AM-12PM
Bring gloves, sturdy shoes, and energy as we celebrate Earth Day by cleaning up one of our favorite beaches. ♥ 2 miles. Call 718-338-3799 for directions and information.

Celebrate National Park Week, and the NPS Centennial

Fort Wadsworth Overlook
Sunday, April 26, 11:00-2:00
Join our celebration with special activities at the overlook, including yoga, birding, animal talks, and fort tours. Junior Ranger activities for kids! Call 718- 354-4655 for more information.

MAY

Lunchtime Walk
Mind and Body Series

Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center
Thursday, May 7, Noon-1 PM.
Take a 2 mile walk along the loop, at the Overlook and past Battery Weed-beginning with the Yoga, Sun Salutation as our warm-up. ♥ 2 miles. Bring water and binoculars.. Call 718-351-4655 for more information.